



Concept Note & Agenda

Parliamentary Leadership for the 2030 Agenda Webinar Series

Designing National Budgets: Translating Global Commitments into Realities

April 19, 2021 | 8:00 am to 10:00 am EDT | 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm CEST | [Other Time Zones](#)

Every year, parliamentarians undertake the crucial responsibility of determining the allocation of public resources through the approval of national budgets. As a decision with wide-ranging and lasting impacts on the course of action to be taken by governments, budgeting entails a complex challenge that often demands intricate familiarity and knowledge of specific policy areas. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, has shown that parliaments must be up to the task of designing national budgets that can provide the necessary resources to strengthen their public health systems, to ensure that their economic recovery has a firm basis on the SDGs set out in the 2030 Agenda, and to address the specific needs of groups who are facing conditions of vulnerability.

Budgets are a tool with the potential to deliver the transformative policies that will be needed as we begin to build back better. However, parliamentarians must also find the means to influence the way in which the budget is allocated, to prepare the bills and proposals relating to them and even to build new majorities. In that view, the final webinar of the **Parliamentary Leadership for the 2030 Agenda Series** will be centered on **Designing National Budgets: Translating Global Commitments into Realities**. To that end, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Parliamentarians for the Global Goals (PfGG), and the International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030) will bring together a group of experts and parliamentarians with the purpose of providing practical guidance on relevant issues that are within the budgetary purview of parliaments.

How can the framework of the SDGs help parliamentarians in ensuring that budgets address the varying needs of constituents and foster a sustainable economic recovery? What are the means at the disposal of parliamentarians to strengthen national health systems through budgets and make them more inclusive, particularly for women and girls? How can resources be effectively allocated to counteract the serious setbacks in education brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic? How can budgets be linked with accountability, particularly through the design and evaluation of results-based budgets? Can parliamentarians navigate fiscal restrictions, particularly in developing countries, to provide relief to those who have endured through considerable economic hardship over the past year?

To address these and other questions of a similar nature, this virtual event itself will be discussion-oriented and structured to give participants actionable items that can serve to guide their work around budgets in their own parliaments. A general overview on how to design budgets with gender and sustainability perspectives as cross-cutting elements will be provided as a framework. Afterwards, the

discussion will then move on to breakout sessions on budgeting for health; for a sustainable economic recovery; and for education.

[Please register here to attend online and indicate your preferred breakout session.](#)

About the organizers: The SDSN is a network of over 1,200 universities in 160+ countries working to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliamentarians for the Global Goals is a new initiative by and for parliamentarians to promote the SDGs through parliamentary actions around the world. UHC2030 is a global movement that seeks to strengthen health systems for universal health coverage through a multi-stakeholder platform promoting collaborative work at both global and country levels.

Draft Agenda

7:45 am EDT *Virtual meeting room opens*

8:00 am EDT **Opening Remarks**

- Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

8:10 am EDT **Overview. Designing National Budgets**

Moderation: Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee

- Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director of WHO EMRO
- Dr. Ernesto Cordero, Former Minister of Finance and Speaker of the Mexican Senate (TBC)
- Dr. Elisabeth Hege, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Governance Programme, IDDRI

8:40 am EDT **Breakout Sessions**

Participants will proceed to a breakout session to discuss one of the three topics that they have chosen during their registration.

- Breakout session on budgeting for health, led by Dr. Aminu Magashi Garba, Africa Health Budget Network
- Breakout session on budgeting for a sustainable economic recovery, led by Dr. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business; Fellow at the World Academy of Art and Science; President-elect of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
- Breakout session on budgeting for education, led by UNESCO (TBC)

Sessions will begin with short (10 minute) presentations from the session leaders.

Parliamentarians may comment on their own initiatives or field questions relating to the topic of the breakout session of their choosing.

9:45 am EDT **Closing Remarks**

- Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder, Parliamentarians for the Global Goals

10:00 am EDT *Adjourn*

Speaker Biographies

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development. He is widely recognized for bold and effective strategies to address complex challenges including debt crises, hyperinflations, the transition from central planning to market economies, the control of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, the escape from extreme poverty, and the battle against human-induced climate change. Sachs serves as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he holds the rank of University Professor, the university's highest academic rank. He is President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development, and an SDG Advocate for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-7), Ban Ki-moon (2008-16), and António Guterres (2017-18). Sachs has authored and edited numerous books, including three New York Times bestsellers: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). Sachs was the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership. He was twice named among *Time* magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and *The New York Times* called Sachs "probably the most important economist in the world." A survey by *The Economist* ranked Sachs as among the three most influential living economists.

Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee

Gabriela Cuevas Barron studied Political Science at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM), in addition to having participated in numerous programs and diplomas related to public administration. She was elected Federal Member of Parliament for the first time when she was 21 years old. Since then, she has been three times Federal Member of Parliament (2001 – 2003, 2009 – 2012, 2018 – currently), as well as Local Member of Parliament (2003 –2006), and a Constituent Member of Parliament in the Constituent Assembly of Mexico City (2016 – 2017) where she presided the Commission of Mayors. Additionally, she was elected Mayor of the Miguel Hidalgo Delegation (2006 – 2009) becoming the only woman in charge of a demarcation during that period. She also chaired the Foreign Relations Commission when she served as Senator of the Republic (2012 – 2018). Ms. Cuevas has also collaborated in the Euro-Lat Parliamentary Assembly proposing resolutions about migration, development, and economic crisis. In 2017 Gabriela Cuevas Barron became the youngest and the second woman President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). As IPU President, she, along with a consortium with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Women Political Leaders (WPL), is part of a Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist movements and leadership. Ms. Cuevas is also a member of the UHC Movement Political Advisory Panel to UHC2030. In addition, she is a Member of the High-Level Steering Group of Every Woman, Every Child.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director of WHO EMRO

Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari was appointed as World Health Organization (WHO)'s Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean by WHO's Executive Board at its 143rd session and assumed office on 1 June 2018. A native of Oman, Dr. Al-Mandhari has made a substantial, positive contribution to the development and modernization of Oman's health system, which has witnessed qualitative improvements in recent years, particularly in areas such as patient safety. A specialist in family and community medicine, Dr. Al Mandhari was Head of Quality Management and Development at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital from 2005 to 2006, followed by Deputy Director-General for Clinical Affairs until 2010. In 2013, he was appointed Director-General of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, later

becoming Director-General of the Quality Assurance Centre at the Ministry of Health. Dr. Al-Mandhari has also worked as a senior consultant in family medicine and public health in Oman since 2009.

Dr. Ernesto Cordero, Former Minister of Finance and Speaker of the Mexican Senate (TBC)

Dr. Cordero has served as Secretary of Finance and Public Credit, Secretary of Social Development, and President of the Board of Directors of the Mexican Senate. He has also been a professor of International Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, of Economics and Statistics at ITAM, and of Econometrics at CIDE and at the Universidad Panamericana.

Dr. Elisabeth Hege, Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Governance Programme, IDDRI

Elisabeth Hege is a senior research fellow in the Governance program. Her work focuses on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a whole. She is particularly interested in the integration of SDGs in national budgets and recovery plans; in the comparison of national governance and dialogue frameworks; in the international follow-up at the High Level Political Forum and in the Europe-Africa dialogue. She also followed the negotiations around the Global Pact for the environment. Elisabeth graduated from SciencesPo Paris with a degree in international development and previously studied political and economic sciences at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Her master thesis is on the following topic: "Scaling up Social Innovation for Sustainable Development? The allocation of roles in community-corporate partnerships for renewable energy projects in the EU ". During her studies, she did several internships abroad (India and Morocco), followed by a post-graduate internship in Paris with Tilia, a consulting firm specializing in energy, water and environment. Elisabeth is a member of the board of EPE.

Mr. Aminu Magashi Garba, Africa Health Budget Network (TBC)

Dr. Aminu Magashi Garba is the founder and coordinator of the Africa Health Budget Network, a regional group that uses budget advocacy to influence adequate health spending and improved transparency and accountability. He is the Global Co-convenor of the Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH). He is a member of the Global Action Plan (GAP) for SDG 3 (Health for All) Civil Society Advocacy Group, the immediate past civil society representative to the Global Financing Facility (GFF) Investors Group (2017/18), and currently a member of the steering committee of the Global Civil Society Coordinating Group for the GFF. In 2018, he served on the WHO Civil Society Advisory Group for its Health Financing Campaign. In Nigeria, he is a founding member of the National Advocates for Health, a policy and advocacy think-tank engaging in high level advocacy on health care financing reforms. In his voluntary capacity he has been a weekly health columnist with the Nigerian Newspaper *Daily Trust* for over 17 years and publishes an online newspaper *Health Reporters* that reports on Africa's Health. He holds an MBBS degree from University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, and a MSc in Public Health and Post Graduate Diploma from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. During his undergraduate studies he was the Vice President of Nigerian Medical Students Association (1997/98).

Dr. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business; Fellow at the World Academy of Art and Science; President-elect of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

Professor Phoebe Koundouri holds a PhD and MPhil in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Cambridge (UK). She is Professor (Chair) of Sustainable Development (Economics and Econometrics) at the School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) and she is the elected President of the European Association of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists ([EAERE](#)) (with more than 1,200 scientific member institutions, from more than 75 different countries). Prof. Koundouri

is listed in the 1% of most-cited women economists in the world, with 15 published books and more than 250 published scientific papers. Professor Koundouri is also the Founder and Scientific Director of the Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability (ReSEES) at the Athens University of Economics and Business and an affiliated Professor at the ATHENA Research and Innovation Center (Greece) where she directs EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. She is also the co-chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Network Greece (UN SDSN Greece), chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8) and chair of the scientific advisory board of the European Forest Institute. Notably she is currently member of the drafting Priministerial Committee for 10-year development plan for Greece, as well as in the Climate Change Committee of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy. She holds a global leadership role in the UN SDSN for European Green Deal (EGD) implementation, Sustainable Shipping and Ports, 4-seas Blue Growth Initiative and is leader (together with Prof. Jeff Sachs) of the Senior Working Group on Transformation Pathways for the implementation of EGD.

Representative from UNESCO (TBC)

Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder, Parliamentarians for the Global Goals

Kirsten Brosbøl is the founder of Parliamentarians for the Global Goals – a new global initiative for parliamentarians who work on the 2030 agenda. Kirsten was an Obama Foundation Scholar at Columbia University in 2019/2020. She is a former MP and Minister of Environment of Denmark, and she founded and chaired the Danish Parliament's All-Party Group on the Sustainable Development Goals.